

1960, and her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1967.

Dr. Christian began her civic service as a teacher at Aberdeen Elementary School in 1960 and held this position for 6 years before moving on to Hampton University. At Hampton, she started as an Instructor in the Education Department before becoming a Professor, then rose to Chair the Education Department in 1970, followed by becoming Dean of the School of Education in 1980, and in 1987 she became Professor Emeritus. Dr. Christian has been appointed to several committees with the Virginia Department of Education throughout her career.

Dr. Christian's educational career alone is worthy of celebration. But outside of the classroom, Dr. Christian was an effective state legislator, representing the 92nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1986–2004. She served ably on the Appropriations, Education, and Rules Standing Committees, and was the Co-chair of the Militia and Police Committee. Dr. Christian was also selected to be a member of various General Assembly Commissions including the Joint Commission on Technology and Science, the Hampton Roads Third Crossing Bridge Tunnel Commission, and the Commission on Access and Diversity. Before I came to Congress, I had the pleasure to serve with Dr. Christian in the General Assembly and I know her to be a skilled public servant who keeps the needs of her constituents paramount in her mind while making decisions in Richmond.

Dr. Christian has received many awards and accolades throughout her career. She has been inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu, Kappa Delta Pi, and Phi Beta Theta honor societies. She is an Honorary Board Member of the National Patient Advocate Foundation. She has received both the Merit Award for Community Service and the Award for Service to Youth from the NAACP. In 2002, Thomas Nelson Community College named the Mary T. Christian Auditorium after her. Dr. Christian is a member of First Baptist Church of Hampton and its Fellowship Choir, and is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., as well as a life member of the NAACP.

Locally, Dr. Christian was founder and leader of several civic and community organizations: Groups Representing Organizations United for Progress (GROUP); Leadership Development Caucus (LDC); Coalition for Community Pride and Progress (CCPP); Association for Restoration of Historic Cemeteries (ARHC); and Co-Chair of the Coalition for Preservation of the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton.

On January 14, 2007, the Hampton Roads Community will come together and pay tribute to Dr. Christian for her many years of service. Proceeds from this tribute event will be used to establish the Dr. Mary T. Christian Scholarship Fund at Hampton University. I would like to congratulate Dr. Christian on her distinguished career of service to the citizens of Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth of Virginia and wish her well in her retirement.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD T.
STILLWELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Stillwell, who, after spending the past 56 years as a firefighter in Pacific Grove, California, has finally decided to retire at the age of 76.

Richard grew up in Pacific Grove, and upon graduating from high school he submitted his application to the Pacific Grove Volunteer Fire Department. The following year he was promoted to a paid position as Fire Engineer. He worked as a paid firefighter for 11 years. In 1962, he resigned from the paid staff to pursue another career, but remained a vital member of the Volunteer Department. Richard was promoted to Volunteer Assistant Chief in 1995, and will hold the title of Honorary Volunteer Fire Chief upon his retirement. No other person in the history of the town has achieved this honorable rank.

Richard is known around town as "Mr. P.G.," and for good reason. He is involved in many community organizations and sponsors several scholarships for students at his alma mater, Pacific Grove High School. He is especially helpful to the young volunteer firemen and finds their enthusiasm for the service keeps him young. He was recently given the Department's highest honor, the Medal of Valor for his meritorious service. Special recognition must be given to his wife, Bev, and their family, for supporting him throughout his career. Over the years, there is no way to count how many birthday parties, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and nights of sleep Richard missed while serving his town.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Richard Stillwell for the many years that he spent serving and protecting Pacific Grove.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH
FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and fellow Michigander, President Gerald R. Ford. I had the privilege of serving alongside then Congressman Ford in the United States House of Representatives for nearly a decade, and was able to observe firsthand the character and integrity of this "congressman's congressman." Congressman Ford's exemplary service was confirmed by the support of the people of Grand Rapids, Michigan, whose love for him endures to this day. As minority leader of this body, President Ford demonstrated the collegiality and uprightness he would draw upon to lead our Nation through a dark time in our history.

I disagreed with some of President Ford's decisions. Along with most of the American public at that time, I disapproved of the way he pardoned his predecessor before trial pro-

ceedings had been initiated. I also disagreed with many of his policy positions. However, time has shown that the man some have called the "accidental president" was the right person to take the highest office in the land at a critical time for our Nation.

Gerald Ford's honor and integrity were the qualities we needed to restore trust and openness to a damaged Presidency. His humble and steady leadership brought our democracy back from the brink of a constitutional crisis. The citizens of the state of Michigan and of our great Nation will not soon forget the important contributions of this man of integrity and honor.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, founded 50 years ago by Dr. Algo Henderson at the University of Michigan with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. Located in my district, the University of Michigan (UM) is a national leader in higher education and in cutting-edge research, equipping young minds with the best tools to confront the world's problems. Among the best at UM, the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education is recognized as an innovator and emulated by higher education institutions across the Nation. Faculty at the Center seek to improve higher and postsecondary education from the perspectives of organizational behavior and management, public policy, academic affairs, student development, assessment, and evaluation. Today, the Center is headed by alumnus Dr. Deborah Faye Carter and staffed by scholars with expertise that spans a wide range of fields in the study.

The Center's faculty members provide valuable leadership to both the graduate students they teach and their colleagues in the field. Thanks to the contributions of the faculty, the Center's research continues to facilitate major initiatives in the field of higher education that respond to the evolving needs of our country.

Graduates of the Center continue into the world providing leadership as administrators and faculty in higher education institutions, as policymakers in governmental and policy agencies, as heads of professional associations, and as researchers in the field.

Current students at the Center are actively engaged in their academic work which is enriched by their many years of experience at liberal arts colleges, State and private universities and community colleges working as admissions directors and professionals in financial aid and faculty and student affairs. Many have served in State and Federal Government agencies and professional higher education associations as institutional researchers, policy analysts and planners. Their experiences at the Center will allow them to contribute to the study of higher education in the same outstanding manner as their faculty and those who have graduated before them.